EARN YOUR MASTER’S IN LAW
Choose a Master’s with the Potential to Do More
MORE OPPORTUNITIES.  MORE IMPACT.

THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LAW

The Law Degree for Non-lawyers

From IT to HR, financial planning to building a startup, an in-depth understanding of how the law impacts your work can make you a power player in many fields.

Perhaps you have considered a JD in the past, but did not have a strong interest in becoming a lawyer. Now you have a do-able, part-time alternative to earn a legal degree with application to your profession.

You have many choices today when it comes to earning a master’s degree, but one option can give you more opportunities to have a greater degree of influence on your profession and on the trajectory of your career: the Master of Science in Law from Western New England University School of Law.

Western New England University's School of Law is accredited by the ABA
You’ve got questions. We’ve got answers.

This brochure provides an overview of the questions we hear most often from prospective students.

Overview and Format

Q. How long is this program?

The Master of Science in Law program is a 24-credit program. It can be completed part-time in two or more years.

Q. What is the program format?

The program is offered on-campus at the Blake Law Center. You’ll attend rigorous classes alongside our JD students. The program director will meet with you individually to discuss course selection and how to maximize the impact of the degree on your career field.

If you are a financial planning professional, you may also consider our online Master of Science in Elder Law and Estate Planning program. Visit wne.edu/law for details.

Q. Are classes offered during the day or evening?

Many courses are offered in both the day and evening. You may choose the section that best suits your schedule.

Q. When are the start dates for the MS in Law program?

This program offers fall and spring semester start dates.

Q. If I like the MS in law program, can I pursue a JD?

Of course! However, the American Bar Association prohibits law schools from allowing the transfer of credits from a master’s program into a JD program. Although certain course requirements taken through the master’s program may be waived, students will still be required to complete 88 credits in the JD program.

Right for You. Right Now.

This part-time degree is specifically designed for non-lawyers who do not intend to practice law, but need extensive knowledge of the law in their professions. Western New England University’s ABA-accredited School of Law offers the only MS in Law program in western Massachusetts to give you the legal expertise you need to take your career to the next level.

The sophisticated and substantial knowledge of law obtained through the program will prepare you to:

- Understand the legal and regulatory scheme that governs your profession;
- Employ legal concepts and perspective in your professional decision-making;
- Use legal insights in developing business strategy and risk management plans;
- Engage in public policy discussions to influence change in your field; and
- Communicate more effectively with legal counsel.
"This is an excellent program that allows you firsthand to learn how the law influences the line of work you wish you go into. This program doesn’t tie you down to a particular concentration, but rather gives you the opportunity to pick and choose what courses are most relevant and of interest to you. The professors and faculty are patient, passionate, and lend a guiding hand that equips you with the tools necessary to be successful.”

—Patrick Palmer, MS in Law Candidate

The Ideal Legal Degree for Non-lawyers

Almost all fields interact with the law in one way or another. Some common crossover professions may include:

- Business executives and entrepreneurs
- Clergy
- Compliance professionals
- Contract analysts
- Court employees
- Engineers and tech professionals
- Financial planners
- Healthcare providers and administrators
- Human resources professionals
- Journalists and librarians
- Law enforcement professionals
- Mediators and labor negotiators
- Nonprofit managers and fundraisers
- Paralegals
- Policymakers and lobbyists
- Real estate professionals
- School principals and administrators
- Social workers
Admissions Requirements and Process

Q. Is the LSAT or GRE required?

The MS in Law program does not require the LSAT, GRE, or any other graduate admissions test.

Q. What is the application deadline?

We review applications on a rolling basis; therefore, we do not have a strict application deadline. However, we recommend submitting all application materials by August 1 for the fall semester and December 1 for the spring semester. Applicants will receive a decision back within two to four weeks of completing their applications.

Q. What is the admissions committee looking for in applicants?

The admissions committee is looking for highly motivated students who are looking to advance their careers through further understanding of the law. Specifically, they are looking for students who will benefit from additional legal knowledge and who have shown academic preparedness for rigorous graduate studies. The committee takes a holistic approach and considers all pieces of the application in their review.

Q. What are the Application Requirements?

• Completed Application form (www1.wne.edu/law/become-a-student/apply/ms-law.cfm).
• Official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended showing proof of BA/BS.

Please have all transcripts mailed to the following address:

Western New England University School of Law
Law Admissions Office
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119

Electronic transcripts should be sent to mslawadmissions@law.wne.edu.

Note: Applicants who completed a portion of their degree or received their degree at an institution located outside the United States must order an official Course-by-Course Evaluation from World Education Services (www.wes.org), to be sent directly to our mailing address listed above.

• Résumé
• Two letters of recommendation (academic or professional) accompanied by our cover sheet found at https://www1.wne.edu/law/become-a-student/apply/doc/ms-law-letter-of-recommendation.pdf
• Personal statement (1-2 pages) explaining why you feel the MS in Law program is a good fit for you and your professional goals
• TOEFL score for applicants who received their postsecondary education in a language other than English
“The MS in Law program allows you to learn firsthand how the law interacts with IT. I am able to take courses, such as Electronic Discovery and Cybercrimes/Digital Evidence, which not only show me how the law is applied, but the concepts behind why it is applied a certain way. This gives me a window into how it should be applied in the future. With technology advancing so fast, this knowledge is invaluable in providing me with the tools to be successful now and in the future.”

William Landry, MS in Law Candidate
Customize Your Curriculum

Beyond recommended foundational courses, the curriculum for the MS in Law program is highly individualized. After taking an introductory course to become acclimated to the process of legal education, you will attend the same classes as students in the Juris Doctor program and be taught by our outstanding law faculty. Enrolled students work one-on-one with the program director to select courses that are appropriate for their professional interests and goals. You may choose from almost any of the courses offered to the JD students and should plan to take one or two courses per semester.

Choose Your Concentration

MS in Law students may choose to declare one of seven concentrations. However, students are not required to concentrate in any one area and will choose classes geared towards their professional goals or interests. The program director will help you select appropriate classes and customize the curriculum. Students in the MS program often use curricula for our JD concentrations as a guide in their own course selection process.

Change the Way You Think

One of the great benefits of a legal education is how it will change the way you think. As a student of the law, you will learn to process and analyze information and find solutions in new ways. You will also hone your writing skills to enhance your communications in all facets of your life. You will learn from a stellar legal faculty whose members have been educated at many of the nation’s most prestigious law schools along with adjunct faculty, including practicing attorneys and judges, who bring current legal practice into the classroom. All are accessible and deeply committed to student success.

To learn more about the Master of Science in Law program, visit wne.edu/lawadmissions/ms-law, or contact our law admissions staff at 413-782-1406 or email: mslawadmissions@law.wne.edu